<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 6, 2005. Claims 1 to 25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 21 and 23 to 25, all of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19 and 21 to 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,911,044 (Lo) in view of U.S. Patent 6,208,436 (Cunningham) and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,678,483 (Maniwa); Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Cunningham and Maniwa and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,289,371 (Kumpf '371); Claims 6, 15, 16, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Cunningham and Maniwa and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,168,444 (Cukor); and Claims 12 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Cunnigham, Maniwa and Cukor, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,223,223 (Kumpf '223). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns a computer network scanning in which a scan order is fulfilled over a computer network. The scan order includes at least one address to which a scanned image (and/or a notification of completion of the scan order) is to be sent. According to one feature of the invention, a computer terminal retrieves a scanner node having a suitable scan capability, and the scan order is created based on the scan capability of the retrieved scanner node.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a computer network scanning system for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network. The system includes at least one computer terminal adapted to retrieve a scanner node having a suitable scan capability and to receive input for creating the scan order for scanning an image at the retrieved scanner node, and sending the scan order to an order entry server, the scan order including at least one network address to which the scanned image is to be sent, the address being input by a requestor. The system also includes at least one order entry server computer configured to retrieve the scanner node having the suitable scan capability based on an instruction by the computer terminal and to create and distribute scan orders in accordance with the scan capability of the retrieved scanner node, each order entry server computer being coupled to the at least one computer terminal through the computer network. In addition, the system includes at least one scanner node, each scanner node being coupled to the at least one computer terminal and each order entry server computer through the computer network, each scanner node being configured to select a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received from at least one of the order entry servers, and each scanner node being configured to generate a scanned image based on the selected scan order and to send the scanned image to the network address included in the selected scan order.

Independent Claim 7 as amended is directed to a computer network scanning method for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node. The method includes the step of creating the scan order at a local computer terminal, wherein the local computer terminal retrieves a scanner node having a suitable

scan capability based on an instruction by the local computer terminal, and wherein the scan order is created in accordance with the scan capability of the retrieved scanner node, and wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned and an address of at least one of the individuals selected from the group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order. The method also includes the steps of submitting the scan order to at least one scanner node for processing, displaying the identification of the item to be scanned included in the scan order and processing the scan order at the scanner node, and updating the scanner node(s) on the computer network.

Independent Claim 23 as amended is directed to a program that generally corresponds with Claim 7.

Independent Claim 21 as amended is directed to a computer network scanning method for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node. The method includes the step of creating the scan order at a local computer terminal, wherein the local computer terminal retrieves a scanner node having a suitable scan capability based on an instruction by the local computer terminal, and wherein the scan order is created in accordance with the scan capability of the retrieved scanner node, and wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned and an address of at least one individual selected from the group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order,

wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise

individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order. The method also includes

the steps of storing the scan order in a central database, and retrieving the scan order for a

scanner node. In addition, the method includes the steps of displaying the identification of

the item to be scanned included in the scan order and processing the retrieved scan order at

the scanner node designated in the scan order, and updating the central database.

Independent Claim 24 as amended is directed to a program that generally

corresponds with Claim 21.

Independent Claim 25 as amended is directed to a computer network

scanning method for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one

scanner node which has a scanner and a computer terminal connected to each scanner node

through the computer network. The method includes the step of receiving the scan order,

through the computer network, including at least one address for sending a scanned image

set by a requestor's input performed on the computer terminal, wherein the computer

terminal retrieves a scanner node having a suitable scan capability based on an instruction

by the computer terminal, and wherein the scan order is created in accordance with the scan

capability of the retrieved scanner node, and wherein the scan order includes an

identification of an item to be scanned and an address of at least one individual selected

from a group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned document, and (B) recipients of

notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of

completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than the requestor that

initiates the scan order. The method also includes the steps of displaying the identification

of the item to be scanned included in the scan order, instructing the scanner to perform a scanning operation based on the scan order, and sending the scanned image to the address included in the scan order through the computer network.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Lo, Cunningham, Maniwa, Kumpf '371, Cukor and Kumpf '223 are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of fulfilling a scan order over a computer network, in which a computer terminal retrieves a scanner node having a suitable scan capability, and in which the scan order is created based on the scan capability of the retrieved scanner node.

As understood by Applicant, Lo discloses a system and method for performing scanning operations using a scanner connected to a server computer, and transmitting acquired images from the scanner server to a client computer. See Lo, Abstract. A read scanner parameters command can be transmitted from the client computer to the scanner server, to indicate that the client computer desires to determine the content of the scanner parameters presented to the user at the client computer. A scanner parameters table contains the current parameters of the scanner, including the ranges and possible settings of the scanner. See Lo, column 12, lines 12 to 18, 25 to 27 and 32 to 35; and Figures 7F and 10.

Although Lo may be seen to disclose a system for performing scanning operations in which scanner parameters are presented to a user at a client computer, Lo is not seen to disclose that a computer terminal retrieves a scanner node having a suitable scan capability. In Lo, it is the scanner parameters that are presented to a client computer,

rather than a scanner node having a suitable scan capability. Moreover, Lo is not seen to disclose or suggest that a scan order is created based on the scan capability of the retrieved scanner node. Accordingly, Lo is not seen to disclose or suggest fulfilling a scan order over a computer network, in which a computer terminal retrieves a scanner node having a suitable scan capability, and in which the scan order is created based on the scan capability of the retrieved scanner node.

In addition, Cunningham, Maniwa, Kumpf '371, Cukor and Kumpf '223 have been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Lo.
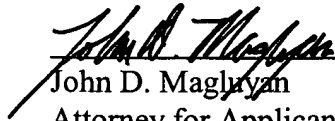
Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 7, 21 and 23 to 25 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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